

REMARKS

Reconsideration of all grounds of objection and rejection, and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-9, as shown above, remain pending herein.

Applicants have amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner in order to overcome all objections thereto in the Office Action.

Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

Applicants have rewritten claims 7 and 8 into an independent form, and support for all the changes to claims 7-9 is clearly provided for in the specification at page 6, line 4 to page 7, line 8, and particularly Figs. 4 and 5. Thus all grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph have been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101, because it is alleged that the claims are directed to a

mathematical algorithm without any limitation to a practical application. Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite, *inter alia*, the step of providing the selected leaves having said predetermined number of objects as an output being sufficiently close to a centroid of a class of objects. The specification at least at page 4, lines 29-32, provides support for this clarification of the claimed invention. Base claim 7 has been amended consistent with claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that the changes made to claims 1 and 7 traverses all grounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101, as statutory subject matter is being claimed.

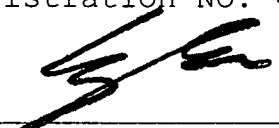
Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present claims are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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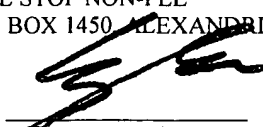
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 6/25/04
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